FOURTH DAY—*17th October 1929.*

The House reassembled at 12 NOON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MESSRS. S. LINGAPPA and KANCHAPPA (Chiknayakanahalli Taluk).—

Q.—31. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) The amount of Village Panchayet arrears outstanding and recovery up to end of June 1929 from all the taluks in the State?

(*b*) The amount collected up to the end of June 1929 and the amount still to be collected in each of the taluks?

(*c*) The amount spent for the Panchayet out of the amount collected in each of the taluk?

(*d*) The amount of Government grant distributed in each of the taluks?

(*e*) Is it not possible to increase the Government grant for Village Panchayets?

(*f*) Are not Government aware of the fact that unless Government grant is increased, the amount that will be realised in each of the Village Panchayets will be inadequate to meet the expenditure of the respective Village Panchayets?

(*g*) Is it not possible to reduce the limit of Panchayet Reserve Fund to be deposited in the Savings Bank from 25 to 10 per cent?

(*h*) Is it not possible to keep the said Reserve Fund in deposit for a definite period and then allow it for being utilised by the respective Village Panchayets?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENTS.—

A.—31. (*a*) to (*d*). *Vide* statement attached. (*Vide* Appendix.)

(*e*) In addition to liberal grants for sinking wells, a sum of Rs. 50,000 was assigned last year by Government for

Rural Reconstruction work. The total grant to Village Panchayets for the year 1928-29 amounted to Rs. 95,980-13-0.

(*f*) Government do not agree in the view held by the member.

(*g*) No reserve fund is prescribed for Village Panchayets. In Rule 39 of the Rules issued under Notification No. 4346—L.B. 26-26-127, dated the 6th January 1927, Panchayets are required to maintain at least a minimum balance of one-sixth of the income. In more than fifty per cent of the Panchayets, the normal income ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. The maximum income rarely exceeds Rs. 1,000 and the maximum amount of balance to be kept up under the existing rules therefore ranges from Rs. 35 to Rs. 170. Further reduction of the balance is unsafe and unnecessary. The actual balance, however, exceeds the prescribed minimum and no complaint has been received that the existing rule has caused any hardship. The minimum balances prescribed in the case of Town and Minor Municipalities is one-fourth of the income.

(*h*) The minimum balances are now invested in the Savings Bank Deposits and a fair amount of interest is earned thereon. The object of reserving the minimum balance is to have it ready for use whenever it is absolutely necessary and it is not allowed to be utilised for any purpose ordinarily.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. S. Lingappa.—

What is the reason for such a large accumulation of arrears?

Revenue Commissioner.—

In the first place, the Unions of old had allowed arrears to accumulate; secondly, the assessment lists themselves had not been prepared and their preparation necessarily took time; thirdly, the Panchayets which had to take action to recover the dues did not take sufficient action and arrangements had to be made to collect them through village officers. Hereafter it may be expected that such large arrears will not be allowed to remain uncollected. Wherever the Panchayets take up collection work we will allow it to be done by them, and in all other cases, collection will be made by the village officers; in fact, circular instructions have been issued in the matter.

Mr. S. Lingappa.—

Is there any likelihood of all the arrears of the Unions being collected?

Revenue Commissioner.—

We cannot say we can collect *all* the arrears. Of course, we have been insisting on all dues being paid.

Mr. S. Lingappa.—

What is the reason for making invidious distinctions between one district and another in the matter of distribution of grants?

Revenue Commissioner.—

Grants are distributed by me among the different districts with reference to local conditions.

Mr. S. Lingappa.—

But why should the difference be so great between the grant to one district and that to another?

Revenue Commissioner.—

I may say that the districts, generally speaking, are not able to spend more than the grants given to them. Experience shows that.

Mr. S. Lingappa.—

Is it not true that some Panchayets in the Tumkur District have been given very small grants? Is that not the case, for instance, with Chikkanaikanhalli?

Revenue Commissioner.—

They can spend neither their own money nor the grants made by Government. If they take more care and spend the money, we will see what more could be done for them.

Mr. S. Lingappa.—

Is it true that grants are not made to the extent recommended by the Amildars?

Revenue Commissioner.—

Apart from grants to Village Panchayets as such, we sanction separate allotments for drinking water wells. Such

allotments have not been included in the figures mentioned in the answer to this question.

Mr. S. Venkatesaiya.—

In regard to sanctioning grants, are there any instructions issued that the sanctioned amounts should have some bearing on the collection work done in the area concerned?

Dewan.—

I think a very good suggestion is implied in your question.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

Is it not more proper to consider whether the Village Panchayets concerned have any other sources of income, before the extent of grant is finally fixed?

Second Member of Council.—

I dare say every Village Panchayet will have enough and to spare if collection work is done promptly. Otherwise there can possibly be no balances.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

If for any reason collection work is not satisfactory in any particular year, why should the Government grant be reduced on that account?

Second Member of Council —

If they properly collect and keep some amount with them and if they want some more amount from Government, it will certainly be given.

Revenue Commissioner.—

We go by a definite programme. We cannot proceed very arbitrarily.

Mr. Kanchappa.—

Has it come to the notice of Government that even though the Panchayets pass resolution in respect of taking up items of work costing Rs. 50 or less, the taluk authorities do not grant the amounts?

Revenue Commissioner.—

If particulars of such cases are brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, orders will be passed at once that the amounts should be given.

Mr. Kanchappa.—

Has it come to notice that such a thing has happened in Chikkanaikanhalli Taluk and the matter is pending with the Sub-Division Officer?

Second Member of Council.—

The matter will be enquired into.

Mr. Venkataramane Gowda.—

Has it come to notice that money is frittered away on beautification to the detriment of sanitary improvements?

Dewan.—

Sanitation is more important. That must be attended to first.

Mr. Venkataramane Gowda.—

What is the limit of the expenditure that may be incurred by the Village Panchayets?

Second Member of Council.—

The rules provide for all this. The Village Panchayets can execute works up to Rs. 50, and beyond that limit up to Rs. 100, the Amildar can sanction grants, and so on.

Mr. Venkataramane Gowda.—

Even if they have power up to Rs. 50, the difficulty is that they are not allowed to spend the money.

Revenue Commissioner.—

I shall give necessary circular orders that they must be allowed to spend up to the limit prescribed.

Mr. Kanchappa.—

Has it come to notice that the Chairmen of certain Panchayets allow the records and registers of the Panchayets to remain with the Shanbhogs and Patels?

Second Member of Council.—

If so, the mistake lies with the Chairmen themselves.

Mr Kanchappa.—

In spite of resolutions passed to the effect that the registers, etc., should be handed over to the Chairmen, it

has not been done, as for instance in Chiknaikanhalli. Has this come to notice?

Revenue Commissioner.—

I shall make enquiries.

Mr. K. V. Veeranna.—

Have the Government taken the opinions of Village Panchayets in respect of Section (*f*) of the question. What is the reason for not agreeing with the view?

Second Member of Council.—

We do not agree that Government grant is indispensable. Government have authorized Panchayets to levy taxes. They must exercise the power and find the means of carrying out the works which they want. The Government grant is merely to help them.

Mr. K. V. Veeranna.—

If their resources are inadequate to meet their expenditure, why not give additional grants?

Second Member of Council.—

Government give them help as far as possible. For the balance they must manage somehow.

Mr. Kanchappa.—

If arrears are allowed to lie uncollected, will they not lapse at the end of three years?

Second Member of Council.—

Some villagers say that they are unable to pay, but that they will supply labour instead of paying cash. That matter is under consideration.

Mr. Kanchappa.—

Is it not desirable to raise the time limit for the payment of arrears?

Second Member of Council.—

It is not possible.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

What is the principle followed in making allotments to the different districts?

Second Member of Council.—

The principle is to help those that are prepared to help themselves.

Revenue Commissioner.—

As soon as Government makes the lump sum grant, I allot about two-thirds of the amount among the different districts, and if I find, about December or January, that there is unequal distribution I distribute the remaining one-third to the deserving districts. Big districts and backward districts require special consideration from time to time. These are the two reasons why some money is kept in reserve.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

What about transferring to the Panchayets concerned all income from *amarai* and *hulbanni*?

Second Member of Council.—

That is not possible. We have considered about it.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa —

In the course of discussions in the Legislative Council, had not Government promised to make available to the Panchayets an amount equivalent to income from *amarai* and *hulbanni*?

Second Member of Council.—

We are practically giving them that amount.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

Should not Government consider the population, area, income, etc., before giving grants?

Second Member of Council —

All these are taken into consideration before the allotments are made.

Mr. B. Gopalachar.—

Are Government aware that about 50 per cent. of the Village Phnchayets are not at all working?

Second Member of Council.—

Government are aware that there are many difficulties in the way of Panchayets doing good work, especially in the Malnad, each village being far removed from the others.

Mr. B. Gopalachar.—

Under the Group System, is it not possible to combine a few villages under one Panchayet?

Second Member of Council.—

We will consider the matter.

Mr. Katte Dakappa.—

Should not the grants to Panchayets bear some proportion to the collection they make?

Second Member of Council.—

That cannot be the sole principle. We will have to consider the importance of the works they must carry out.

Mr. B. Linge Gowda.—

From Appendix D it will be seen that grants have not been made to certain taluks. Does it mean that they have not got any grants at all?

Revenue Commissioner.—

Grants have been given. But the exact information is not readily available.

Mr. B. Linge Gowda.—

Why have grants not been given to some taluks?

Second Member of Council.—

We want notice.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY (Chickmagalur Taluk).—

Q.—32. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) The number of *Malnad* Improvement dispensaries (Districtwar) that exist in the *malnad* districts of Kadur, Hassan and Shimoga, and the names of places in which they are located ?

(*b*) The average number of patients per day in each dispensary ?

(*c*) How many of these dispensaries are located in Government buildings and how many in rented ones ?

(*d*) Are there wards attached to each dispensary and what is the number of beds available in each ?